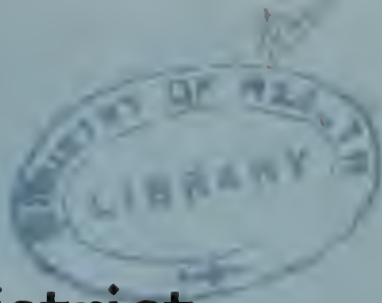


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Clare Rural District

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1946

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
CLARE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1946 on the Sanitary Circumstances, Vital Statistics, and Health of the Clare Rural District.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in Circular 13/47.

The general health of the population has continued to be good.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£32,078
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£131 7s. 11d.

Estimated Resident Population of the District: 1938, 8,368; 1944, 8,281; 1945, 8,036; 1946, 8,215.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books ... 2,850

The whole area is agricultural in character and there are no industries or trades other than those directly or indirectly dependent upon agricultural pursuits.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	165	80	85
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	24	10	14
Totals					189	90	99

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	23.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	19.1

Stillbirths:

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	3	3
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals					7	3	4

Rate per 1,000 (total live and still births)	35.7
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Deaths:

	Total	Male	Female
	104	50	54
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	11.5
Deaths from puerperal causes:—			
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
(b) Other Puerperal Causes	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:—

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals					4	2

Death Rate of infants under one year of age: —

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	21.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	24.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	1
Births and Deaths Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1946:					

	1936	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46
Birth Rate	12.9	11.6	13.5	13.8	13.7	14.4	15.8	17.5	37.8	17.2	23.0
Death Rate	10.2	9.8	13.0	15.4	16.8	13.5	15.6	14.5	13.4	13.8	12.6

Classification of Deaths under age groups: —

Under 1 year	...	...	2	...	2	...	4
1 and under 2	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
2 „ 5	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
5 „ 15	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
15 „ 25	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
25 „ 35	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
35 „ 45	...	...	3	...	—	...	3
45 „ 55	...	...	3	...	2	...	5
55 „ 65	...	...	3	...	7	...	10
65 „ 75	...	...	14	...	17	...	31
75 and over	...	...	25	...	26	...	51
Totals	50				54		104

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There is no alteration in the general arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

(a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other Authorities.

(b) Whole time Sanitary Inspectors.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November, 1944). Mr. Smith is an Associate Member of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers, an Associate Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute and a Member of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. B. Jones (appointed 1st November, 1945). Mr. Jones holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board, and is an Associate Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Hospitals:

There are no Hospitals in the district. Patients requiring treatment either attend Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, or the West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds. The Newmarket Rural District, Cambs., have a well-equipped Isolation Hospital at Exning, near Newmarket, and cases of infectious disease are accepted there at a charge of £3 12s. 6d. weekly plus the cost of removal by motor ambulance.

Water Supply:

The three waterworks owned by the District Council are situated in the parishes of Clare, Hundon, and Withersfield. Details have been given in other reports but, in view of future developments, I have thought it advisable to repeat them again in a summarised form together with some particulars of work done during the year and the population supplied:—

Clare Waterworks:

Two boreholes (12 in. and 8 in.), oil engines. Strata: Clay and Chalk. Downward sand filtration. Storage reservoir of 65,000 gallons capacity.

Both engines have been completely overhauled, sand and filter floor tiles renewed, the reservoir cleaned out and the walls scraped.

Hundon Waterworks:

One borehole (18 in.). Oil engines. Strata: Clay and Chalk. Mechanical sand filtration. Storage reservoir 40,000 gallons. The engine and pump have been completely overhauled and the reservoir emptied and washed out.

Withersfield Waterworks:

One borehole (9 in.). Oil engine. Strata: Clay and Chalk. Storage in elevated steel tower of 12,000 gallons capacity. The mains are washed out monthly and the tower every six months.

It will be noted that at Hundon and Withersfield the engines and pumps are not installed in duplicate.

The quality of the water obtained is good, presenting the usual characteristics of a hard chalk water but showing a precipitate of oxycarbonate of iron on exposure to air. At Clare and Hundon this is removed by aeration and filtration, but no such provision has been made at Withersfield. It is possible when the general district scheme, referred to hereafter, is developed, that the Withersfield waterworks may become redundant. The quantity from each of them has been sufficient to meet all demands. The degrees of hardness in grains per gallon are as follows:

			Permanent	Temporary	Total
Clare Waterworks	...	...	18.84	6.28	25.12
Hundon Waterworks	...	...	18.84	3.26	22.10
Withersfield Waterworks	...	...	16.52	27.98	44.50

The number of dwelling houses and the population supplied from these waterworks is shown in the following table: —

Parish	Houses with water laid on, i.e. directly into the houses	Estimated population	Houses supplied by standpipes	Estimated population
Clare ...	379	1,516	24	96
Hundon ...	75	300	77	308
Withersfield ...	110	840	149	596

In addition 11 houses at Withersfield, out of reach of the local mains, are supplied by an extension of the main from the adjoining Urban District of Haverhill and a similar extension supplies 17 cottages in the village of Little Wratting. At Stoke by Clare 90 houses receive a piped supply from the waterworks in the ownership of Stoke College Estate.

All the other parishes are dependent upon private and public wells and the situation is still so unsatisfactory that the principle of providing emergency supplies by means of 500 gallon tanks situated at suitable points has had to be continued. There are 60 of these in use and water is supplied to them from the Hundon Waterworks. The Hundon Waterworks also supply the Stradishall R.A.F. Station by a direct pumping main and, under the contract, as much as 60,000 gallons per day may be required. So far there has been no difficulty in meeting all requirements.

General District Scheme:

A 300 ft. trial bore has been sunk at Great Wratting and the results indicate that sufficient water of good quality will be available for the needs of the whole area.

The borehole is lined to 100 ft. 6 in. with the bottom 50 ft. of tubing perforated and the top 50 ft. grouted in cement concrete, it passes through the following strata: —

Clay and stone	...	2 ft. 6 in.
Gravel	...	5 ft. 6 in. — 8 ft. 0 in.
Chalk and flints	...	142 ft. 0 in. — 150 ft. 0 in.
Grey chalk	...	25 ft. 0 in. — 175 ft. 0 in.
Chalk and flints	...	35 ft. 0 in. — 210 ft. 0 in.
Chalk	...	90 ft. 0 in. — 300 ft. 0 in.

Pumping Test:

Pumping rate	Days pumped	Rest level average
21,000 gallons per hour	12 continuous	32 ft. 0 in.
42,000 gallons per hour	2 continuous	59 ft. 0 in.

The scheme embodies the sinking of a duplicate bore at Great Wrating, duplicate pumps and automatic switch gear, pumping station, softening plant, reservoir, water tower, mains, valves, etc., and is divided into two sections, viz. : —

1. *Low level area.*—Supplied from Gréat Wrating bores via a pumping main to a reservoir at Hundon Hall from which the following parishes can be supplied by gravitation from the proposed 750,000 gallon reservoir: Barnardiston, Great and Little Bradley, Cavendish, Clare, Denston, Hawkedon, Hundon, Kedington, Poslingford, Stansfield, Stradishall, Stokeby-Clare, Great and Little Thurlow, Wickhambrook (part), Withersfield, Wixoe, Great and Little Wrating. Estimated population: 8,050 persons.
2. *High level area.*—This area would consist of the parishes of Depden, Ousden, Lidgate, Cowlinge and Wickhambrook (part) serving an estimated population of 1,300 persons. This scheme is subject to a suitable price for a bulk supply from Thingoe R.D.C. who would then supply water to a reservoir for their own area use and from which water would be boosted to a tower to supply the above five parishes by gravitation.

Details of the general scheme have been placed before the Ministry of Health. It is estimated that a loan of £159,660 will be needed.

Thurlow and Bradley Extension:

An extension from the Withersfield Waterworks has been made to serve the parishes of Little Thurlow, Great Thurlow, Great and Little Bradley. The Council does not propose to provide standpipes, it being considered more in accord with modern practice to lay water on to each individual house.

To render the water obtained from the Withersfield Waterworks at all palatable, it should be softened and the excess of iron removed. The development of the Great Wrating bore, however, should make this source of supply redundant except as a stand by in case of emergency. When all these proposals are implemented each of the 24 parishes in the district will have a piped supply of water.

Drainage and Sewerage:

There is no system of sewerage or sewage purification in operation in any part of the District so the general situation remains the same.

Mr. Smith, in his capacity of Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has undertaken to make a survey of all existing drains and sewers in the area in order to effect co-ordination between schemes of water supply and sewage disposal. This survey has been delayed owing to the pressure of other work and is not likely to be carried out in its entirety until an engineering assistant has been appointed.

In the meantime, plans for the sewerage of Clare and Withersfield have been commenced.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Disposal:

Refuse collections organised by the respective Parish Councils, are carried out by contract at Clare, Hundon, Kedington and Cavendish.

The inhabitants of the other villages dispose of refuse in their gardens, or allotments, or in any convenient place, often with unsightly and insanitary results.

This question has been considered by the District Council with a view to inaugurating a general collection of household refuse throughout the area, the scheme to be administered by the District Council acting as the sanitary authority, and, as a commencement, an order has been placed for a refuse collecting vehicle of a suitable type. Delivery, however, is not expected until late 1948.

Rivers and Streams:

The streams drain the higher boulder clay area into the valley of the river Stour which runs through the district from North to South and then turning Eastwards forms its Southern boundary. The parishes situated along the course of the river are Great and Little Bradley, Little Thurlow, Great Thurlow, Great Wratting, Kedington, Wixoe, Stoke-by-Clare, Clare and Cavendish and the river receives pollution from all of them. The greatest nuisance, however, is at Clare. It is estimated that the total population of these villages is about 4,000 persons.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Bye Laws in force within the area:—

Housing matters	...	...	...	...	1122
Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage	...	...	...	...	67
Disinfestation and Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	10
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	43
Shops and Stores	...	...	...	...	19
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	12
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	208
Verminous premises and persons	...	...	...	...	9
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	14
Meat and other foods	...	...	...	...	26
Other	...	...	...	...	88

Summary of Notices Served:

		Defects re-medied
Dwelling House (structural defects)	29	12
Nuisance (not included in above)	2	1
Water supplies	9	5
Drainage (house)	5	4
Privies, Ash-pits and Cess pools	2	1
Cowsheds and Dairies	5	4

Factories:

There are 36 factories on your register, 4 being added during the year. 21 are classed as "factories with power."

One notice was served to carry out whitewashing and complied with.

HOUSING

No new houses have been built during the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:

1.	(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	1068
		(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose...	1122
	(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	1068
		(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose...	1122
	(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	164
	(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	822
2.			Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:— Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	3
3.			Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
	(a)		There were no proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936:	
		(a)	Sections 9, 10 and 16.	
		(b)	Sections 11 and 13.	
		(c)	Section 12.	
	(b)		Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
		(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	NIL
		(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
		(a)	By owners	NIL
		(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	NIL

The Rural housing survey is still in progress.

One house, built by private enterprise, has been erected and Building Licences granted for a further three and also for the bringing into occupation of twenty-eight cottages.

Houses are being erected by the Council at Cavendish, Stoke-by-Clare, and Little Bradley.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply:

Total number of farms registered	...	...	57
Accredited milk producers	...	...	8
TT producers	...	...	1
Number of retailers premises registered	...	...	5
Number of Dairymen registered	...	...	59
Number of Retailers registered...	...	...	3
Number of Pasteurised Licences (1 Supplement-ary and 1 Dealers)	...	...	2

Two cowsheds have been completely reconstructed and schemes are approved for alterations to several dairies in the area.

Meat and other Foods:

Licensed Slaughter-houses used for occasional slaughtering only	10
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Meat is distributed to the different butchers from a central slaughter-house situated in an adjoining area.

There are two Knackers Yards registered.

Unsound Food:

The following amounts of foodstuffs unfit for human consumption have been dealt with:—

Meat	...	...	165 lbs.
Tinned Food	...	...	171 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	177 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	34 lbs.
Cereals	43 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933:

Number of Licensed Slaughtermen	24
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One of whom has a licence to operate in areas outside the district.

Fried Fish Shops:

There is one shop situated in Clare. The trade is carried on in a satisfactory manner and under suitable conditions.

Ice Cream Premises:

There is none manufactured in the area.

Infectious Diseases:

Six houses have been fumigated following the removal to hospital of persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Rodent Destruction:

The Council do not operate a scheme for the destruction of rats. The Clare refuse tip is treated at frequent periods by the War Agricultural Executive Committee carrying out work on behalf of the Council.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Forty-four notifications of infectious disease were received during the year. In addition, however, there were 10 notifications of infectious disease amongst non-civilians. The total number of notifications of infectious disease during the last seven years as compared with the present year (Civilian cases only) is indicated in the following table. The figures speak for themselves, rendering comment unnecessary.

	1939	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46
Diphtheria	—	6	8	—	1	1	2	—
Scarlet fever	—	15	22	19	6	4	20	5
Cerebro spinal fever	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	2	1	—	2	—	—	—
Measles	—	9	180	71	42	6	103	19
Whooping cough	9	11	69	8	27	3	16	16
Pneumonia	8	14	7	12	6	9	5	2
Erysipelas	1	4	1	5	2	2	1	2
Infective jaundice	—	—	—	—	11	7	2	—
Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	21	62	289	116	97	32	151	44

The arrangements for diphtheria immunisation are the same as set out in my report for 1942. It is estimated that approximately 85 per cent. of children under 5 years of age and 87 per cent. of those between the ages of 5 and 15 have been fully protected. Diphtheria antitoxin is always supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, deals with any bacteriological examinations that may be required.

The following table shews the total number of notifications in age groups, together with the number removed to hospital.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.											Admitt'd to Hospital	Deaths.
		1—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Scarlet Fever	5					1	1	1		2			3	—
Measles	19		1	3	3		7	2	2	1				—
Whooping Cough ..	16		3		1	3	9							—
Pneumonia	2			1									1	—
Erysipelas	2										2			—
TOTALS	44		4	4	4	4	17	3	2	3	2		1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F.
0								
1								
5								
15	1							
25	1	2		1				
35								
45					1			
55		1				1		
65 and over								
Totals ..	2	3	—	1	1	1	—	—

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths, nil.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

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64